



*Building bridges between  
criminal justice & behavioral health  
to prevent incarceration*

## **COMIO Meeting Topics for 2017**

### **Goals for COMIO Meetings in 2017**

- Increase opportunities to highlight local best practices and innovations – both from a research and implementation perspective
- Provide meaningful occasions for input from individuals with lived experience
- Sharpen focus on the issues COMIO investigates, identifies, and promotes to elicit specific policy recommendations
- Expand attendance and partnerships

### **Time and Structure**

There will be 4 issue-specific workshops and meetings with one that will include a county-specific site visit to be held outside of Sacramento in a location to be determined. The November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the presentation of COMIO's findings and recommendations at the State Capitol targeting legislative staff and other policy makers.

### ***Issue Specific Workshops: Feb. 1, April 5, July 19, Sept. 20***

- Member attendance is encouraged but voluntarily, similar to previous committee meetings
- 4 hours
- Focus on hearing various perspectives on one issue (e.g. strategies to support data collection and information sharing)
- Hear from subject matter experts and engage with stakeholders
- Produce a brief based on the meeting that could be produce prior to the final legislative report

### ***COMIO Full Council Meetings: Feb. 2, April 6, July 20, Sept. 21***

- Topic is related to or builds upon issue-specific workshop the day prior
- 4 to 5 hours
- Determine if action should be taken based on workshop findings and discussion
- Receive briefs from key partners at the state level – e.g. CDCR, BSCC, CBHDA, CSSA, CPOC, State Departments or Agencies – as appropriate
- County or program specific presentation
- Research presentation

### **Meeting Topics and Focus:**

Issue-specific workshops and council meetings will align with the *Stepping Up Initiative's* technical assistance to support comprehensive diversion programs being provided to counties statewide. Each workshop and council meeting will highlight best practices in achieving the 4 key outcomes identified below. Workshops and council meetings would investigate policies that could be in place to better support achievement of these outcomes statewide.

The benefits of this approach include:

- Consistency with issues COMIO has already studied in 2015 and 2016,
- Support of current county efforts - facilitating more county interaction,
- Leveraging assistance from experts in the field like the Council on State Governments (CSG) Justice Center,
- Providing structure to have more outcome-focused work products (e.g. issue-specific policy briefs) and
- Managing scope creep while still allowing flexibility to address unforeseen issues that arise.

**Outcomes that would be focus of Workshops and Council Meetings In April, July, & September:**

- 1) Strategies to reduce the number of people with mental illness booked into jail: Could include intercepts 0 and/or 1 and several things could be considered including preventing crisis, training first responders, and best practices in crisis services (including SB 82 and expansion of the program to children's services). In addition, this outcome could explore alternatives to jails like effective behavioral health programs equipped for the justice-involved population.
- 2) Reducing the length of time people with mental illness remain in jail: Could include intercepts 2 and/or 3 such as expanding the criteria for diversion and pre-trial detention reform, bail reform, behavioral health court models, and strategies to reduce the number of individuals needing to be restored to competency who are waiting in jails and juvenile detention. This outcome supports promoting screening and assessments and strategies to understand who is in jail and why (data sharing strategies), training for custody/ probation, and the delivery of quality services while in custody.
- 3) Increasing connections to treatment: This outcome facilitates discussions about maximizing services and building community alternatives to jail including effective and integrated substance use, mental health, and correctional services. Explore strategies to support available housing, facilities and the successful siting of community alternatives. Examine effective jail in-reach programs, reentry planning and warm hand-offs which require a discussion on data sharing and assessments. Begin a discussion on the impact of on-going reforms within the child welfare system and new alternative services for juveniles.
- 4) Reduce Recidivism: Showcase best practices in recidivism, including using this time to provide COMIO Best Practice Awards. Identify best practices in services for the justice-involved with behavioral health needs, including co-occurring services and correctional services. Identify strategies to monitor best practices and study the link between housing and recidivism. This outcome also lends itself to learning more about the research underway in this area from entities like PPIC, RAND, Stanford and others to be identified.